
By: **Delegates Zirkin, Burns, Jones, Morhaim, and Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2003

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Task Force to Study the Impact of Community-Based Homes**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of
4 Community-Based Homes; providing for the membership of the Task Force;
5 specifying duties of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force;
6 requiring the Task Force to study certain issues and report to the Governor and
7 the General Assembly on or before a certain date; prohibiting members of the
8 Task Force from receiving certain compensation but authorizing the
9 reimbursement of certain expenses; providing for the termination of this Act;
10 and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of
11 Community-Based Homes.

12 **Preamble**

13 WHEREAS, Governor Glendening, by Executive Order, established the Task
14 Force to Study the Licensing and Monitoring of Community-Based Homes for
15 Children in 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, The Task Force was charged to conduct an evaluation of Maryland's
17 system for licensing and monitoring of community-based homes for children in order
18 to address community concerns and ensure the continued operation and development
19 of successful community-based programs; and

20 WHEREAS, As a result of the study, the Task Force recommended further study
21 on education issues, including linking children in out-of-home placements with local
22 school services; now, therefore,

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That:

25 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Community-Based Homes.

26 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 15 members:

27 (1) one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

1 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House of Delegates;

3 (3) the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,
4 and Families;

5 (4) the Director of the Office of Health Care Quality in the Department
6 of Health and Mental Hygiene;

7 (5) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

8 (6) the Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or the Secretary's designee;

9 (7) the State Superintendent of Education, or the State Superintendent's
10 designee;

11 (8) the Director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration, or the
12 Director's designee;

13 (9) the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration, or the Director's
14 designee;

15 (10) the Director of the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities,
16 or the Director's designee; and

17 (11) five members appointed by the Governor who have expertise or are
18 community advocates in the area of social services, children services, juvenile justice,
19 or education.

20 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates
21 shall jointly designate two of the Task Force members as co-chairs of the Task Force.

22 (d) The Task Force shall:

23 (1) study the impact of child placements in community-based homes on
24 local school systems and educational services;

25 (2) study methods to improve the allocation of education resources for
26 children in community-based homes;

27 (3) study the need for after school programs and for provider
28 involvement in the local schools where children placed in community-based homes
29 attend; and

30 (4) report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in
31 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly
32 on or before December 31, 2003.

33 (e) The Task Force may:

1 (1) conduct site visits to community-based homes for children around
2 the State;

3 (2) visit and review the licensing and monitoring programs at the
4 Department of Human Resources, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
5 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the State Department of Education;
6 and

7 (3) visit local public schools in communities around the State that have
8 enrolled children from community-based homes.

9 (f) The Department of Legislative Services, the Governor's Office for
10 Children, Youth, and Families, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
11 shall provide staff for the Task Force.

12 (g) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
13 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
14 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 July 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
17 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.